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Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP80-00473A000300050028-8

DD/A 76-3472

Executive Registry

76-8347/5

9 JUL 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : CIA SIGINT

Jack:

1. As you know, outside reviewers--particularly the House Appropriations Committee--have raised questions about CIA activities in the SIGINT field. Whatever the nature and motivations of the questions, the subject is fair game for a deep and intensive internal Agency study.

2. At the heart of the subject are three issues we should resolve to our satisfaction:

A. What must CIA do in SIGINT in keeping with the CIA mission?

B. What can CIA do to help the Community at-large in this same area?

C. What savings in Agency resources are possible by changing the way we carry out our SIGINT mission?

3. We need to address these questions not only for the present but also for the future, paying close attention to the development of a continuing and clearly definable role for CIA SIGINT.

4. Finally, after developing findings in the above areas we need to develop clear options proposing ways for CIA

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to organize effectively to carry out its SIGINT mission. Such organizational alternatives should include a recommendation for the proper role of the CIA SIGINT Officer.

5. In order to accomplish this much needed rethinking of CIA's place in the SIGINT world, I am asking you to serve as my Special Assistant for SIGINT and as Chairman of a SIGINT Task Force to furnish definitive recommendations to me by 15 January 1977. During this period you will also serve as the CIA SIGINT Officer.

6. Because of the importance of this project, the Deputy Director for Operations and the Deputy Director for Science and Technology have agreed to release [redacted] Chief, Division D, DDO and Mr. James V. Hirsch, Director, Office of ELINT, DDS&T, to act as full time members of your team. I have been assured that during this period they will separate themselves fully from their organizational and operational duties.

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7. It is imperative that the three of you deliberate in complete candor with full and equal access to all the information necessary to complete your job. It is equally important that you consider the issues without regard to any personal or bureaucratic complications that might arise therefrom. Your findings and recommendations must thus serve the interest of the Agency as a whole.

8. You should be prepared to report regularly on your progress to the Executive Advisory Group and should be alert to keep the Deputy Director for Operations and the Deputy Director for Science and Technology in your confidence, as to any major changes you may propose which could affect their directorates or the services and facilities furnished to them by the present Office of ELINT and Division D.

9. During your efforts, I am directing that there be no organizational changes affecting OEL or Division D and that there be no reprogramming of resources out of these two components without the explicit permission of the Comptroller.

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10. This will be a difficult and arduous task which will require the full dedication of yourself and your colleagues from Division D and the Office of ELINT. Recognizing this, I am asking that everyone in the Agency give you their fullest cooperation and support.

7/7 E. H. Knoche

E. H. Knoche
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: DDA

ROOM NO.	BUILDING
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REMARKS:

Mr. Blake, per your
request
sel

FROM:

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DD/A Registry

DDA 76-3318

File O + M

2 JUL 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John D. Iams

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

Jack:

1. I have reviewed your draft memorandum of 30 June on "CIA SIGINT" and offer the following comments.

2. My comments are as follows:

STATINTL
a. Paragraph 6--if, in fact, Messrs. [REDACTED] and Hirsch are to "separate themselves fully from their organizational and operational duties" during the study period, then both DDO and DDS&T should appoint Acting Directors of the two units involved. This is necessary both for legal reasons and so that employees of both units will know who their boss is.

b. That part of paragraph 8 that states you should keep the DDO and DDS&T "in your confidence as to any major changes you may propose which could affect their Directorates", gives me some cause for concern. This could possibly lead to a continuing debate all during the term of the study group and prejudice the ultimate outcome of the most sensible and objective recommendations. In lieu of the quoted language it would seem to me that only the most general of status reports given to the Executive Advisory Group would suffice for the purpose.

c. I assume the directive about having no fundamental changes in the current organization and resources of the Office of ELINT and Division D runs to the DDO and DD/S&T personally and not to you. My assumption when I read this language is that one wishes to freeze the organizational structure and the resources at the status quo for the duration of the study group.

3. Good luck.

STATINTL



John F. Blake

Distribution:

Orig - Mr. Iams

1 - DDA Subject w/ref (DDA 76-3292 Draft Memo to Mr. Iams fr Mr. Knoche
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DDA:JFBlake:der (2 July 1976)